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Message Text

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14
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 OMB-01 ACDA-19 EUR-25 IGA-02 TRSE-00 RSR-01

/147 W
---------- 010769
R 081354 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4230
INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU
AMCONSUL BOMBAY
AMCONSUL CALCUTTA
AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 5362

E. O. 11652: N/ A
TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, PK
SUBJ: REACTION TO THE PRESIDENT' S FOREIGN POLICY MESSAGE.

REF : NEW DELHI 5271

SUMMARY: THE SOUTH ASIA PORTION OF THE PRESIDENT' S FOREIGN POL-
ICY REPORT SPARKED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST HERE. REACTION WAS MIXED,
BUT ON BALANCE FAVORABLE. FOREIGN SECRETARY KEWAL SINGH, AMBAS-
SADOR- DESIGNATE TO THE US, T. N. KAUL AND OTHER INFLUENTIAL INIDANS
SAY THEY LIKE IT. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS, THE HOME MINISTER LABELED
IT " CONTRADICTORY." INITIAL PRESS PLAY WAS DEFINITELY POSITIVE
(SEE REFTEL), AS WERE SEVERAL EDITORIALS. OTHER EDITORIALS, HOWEVER,
OBJECTED STRONGLY TO WHAT THEY SAW AS CONTINUED US MILITARY SUP-
PORT FOR PAKISTAN. THEY ALSO COMPALINED ABOUT BEING CALLED A
MAJOR POWER AND BEING WARNED ABOUT INDIA' S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE
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SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

1. OFFICIAL REACTION: AMBASSADOR- DESIGNATE KAUL WELCOMED THE
REPORT IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE INDO- AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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MAY 4. THE FOREIGN SECRETARY TOLD ME AT LENGTH THE NEXT NIGHT,
AT HIS RECEPTION FOR KAUL, HOW " HANDSOME" THE REPORT WAS. A GROUP
OF 25 OFFICIALS AND ACADEMICIANS AT THE INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED
STUDIES IN SIMLA ALSO MADE CLEAR TO A VISITING EMBASSY OFFICER
THAT THEY LIKED THE REPORT, AS HAVE OTHER OFFICIALS AND INTELLECTUALS
IN SCATTERED DISCUSSIONS IN DELHI. MRS. GHANDHI DODGED A PRESS
QUESTION ABOUT THE REPORT MAY 4, BUT FORMER AMBASSADOR TO THE US
L. K. JHA INDICATED TO ME THAT SHE WAS VERY INTERESTED. HER HOME
MINISTER TOLD A PARTY MEETING IN AGRA MAY 6 THAT ALTHOUGH PRESI-
DENT NIXON HAD ACCEPTED THAT INDIA HAD BECOME " A POWER TO RECKON
WITH" IN ANY MATTER CONCERNING SOUTH ASIA, HE MADE REFERENCES TO
PAKISTAN AND CHINA WHICH COULD NOT BE TO THE LIKING OF INDIA. THE
MINISTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT THE GOI WOULD " REMAIN UNDECIDED ABOUT
OUR ATTIDUTE TOWARDS THE USA AS LONG AS THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION
CONTINUES TO MAKE CONTRADICTORY STATEMENTS ABOUT THE COUNTRIES OF
SOUTH ASIA." ALSO, THE DEFENSE MINISTER TOLD THE PRESS MAY 5
THAT IF AMERICA WAS INTERESTED IN PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE AREA,
IT SHOULD NOT ARM PAKISTAN.

2. OTHER REACTION: AS REPORTED REFTEL, THE REPORT RECEIVED VERY GOOD
INITIAL COVERAGE, WITH HEADLINES SUCH AS " NIXON WANTS MATURE TIES
WITH INDIA" (STATESMAN) AND NIXON ASSURES US WON' T PURSUE
ANTI- INDIA POLICY " (HINDUSTAN TIMES) SUBSEQUENT EDITORIAL COMMENT
RANGED FROM ENTHUSIASTIC (STATESMAN AND HINDU) TO POSITIVE (PRO-
GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD, HINDI NAV BHARAT TIMES AND HINDUSTAN)
TO MILDLY CRITICAL (INDIA EXPRESS, BENGALI ANANDA BAZAR PATRIKA)
AND HOSTILE (MOTHERLAND AND PRO- MOSCOW PATRIOT). IN GENERAL,
THOSE WHO LIKED THE MESSAGE SAW IT AS REPRESENTING A DEFINITE
CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. THE STATESMAN CONCLUDED " WASHINGTON
CANNOT GO FURTHER THAN IT HAS DONE SINCE DECEMBER 1971 IN ADJUST-
ING TO NEW REALITIES IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD."

(A) PAKISTAN: THE CRUX OF THE MATTER FOR POST PAPERS WAS US
MILITARY SUPPLY TO PAKISTAN. ONLY THE STATESMAN DESCRIBED COR-
RECTLY WHAT THE US IS DOING. MOST SIMPLY REFERRED TO " ARMS"
SUPPLY, OR EVEN TO " GIFTS OF ARMS." THEY SAW A CONTRADICTION
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT' S FAVORABLE COMMENTS ABOUT THE SITUATION
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IN THE SUBCOTINENT AND US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY. THEY ALSO
SPECULATED WHETHER THE REFERENCE IN THE REPORT TO THE NEED FOR
THE " REPATRIATION OF ALL DETAINEES" INCLUDED BOTH BENGALEES IN
PAKISTAN AND BIHARIS. (MEA PAKISTAN DIVISION JOINT SECRETARY
ASHOK CHIB ASKED THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR ABOUT THIS MAY 4.
THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR REPLIED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW, THAT HE
ASSUMED IT APPLIED TO BOTH, BUT THAT THE US WISHED TO AVOID
BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE RESOLUTION OF THIS ISSUE.)

(B) INDO- SOVIET RELATIONS: COMMENTARY RANGED FROM MILD CHIDING
THAT THE US SHOULD NOT BE SO APPREHENSIVE OF THE INDO- SOVIET
RELATIONSHIP (PRO- GOVERNMENT NATIONAL HERALD) TO CHARGES OF A

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" PATHOLOGICAL OBSESSION" WITH THE INDO- SOVIET TREATY (PATRIOT). SEVERAL SUGGESTED THAT THE US SHOULD NOT OBJECT TO INDIA HAVING THE KIND OF RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION WHICH THE US MAINTAINS WITH PAKISTAN.

(C) INDIA' S ROLE IN THE AREA: ON MAY 3, FOREIGN MINISTRY SPOKESMAN S. K. SINGH, ON BACKGROUND, REACTED FAVORABLE TO THE REPORT BUT OJBECTED TO WHAT HE SAW AS A SUGGESTION THAT INDIA WISHED TO PLAY A DOMINANT ROLE IN THE REGION. SEVERAL PAPERS PICKED THIS UP, READING INTO THE REPORT AN EFFORT TO DEPICT INDIA AS EXPANSIONIST AND TO SOW SEEDS OF MISUNDERSTANDING AMONG INDIA' S SAMLLER NEIGHBORS. THEY REACTED DEFENSIVELY, ARGUING THAT THE EMERGENCE OF A FREE AND INDEPENDENT BANGLADESH AND THE RETURN OF PAKISTANI TERRITORY HAS PROVED THAT INDIA HAS NO EXPANSIONIST AMBITIONS AGAINST ANY COUNTRY (HINDI HINDUSTAN). PRIVATELY, HOWEVER, INDIANS APPEAR PLEASED AT BEING LABELED A MAJOR POWER.

3. AID: ALTHOUGH NOT COMMENTING ON THE PRESIDENT' S REFERENCES TO AID TO THE SUBCONTINENT, THE PRESS HAS PICKED UP THE $75 MILLION " PROVISIONALLY" EARMARKED FOR INDIA IN THE FY74 AID PRESENTATION. THE TIMES OF INDIA QUOTED OFFICIAL CIRCLES TO THE EFFECT THAT THIS REPRESENTED AN ATTEMPT BY THE USA TO MEND FENCES ON THE ECONOMIC FRONT " HOWEVER INADEQUATE IT MAY APPEAR TO BE FROM THE INDIA POINT OF VIEW."
MOYNIHAN

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Draft Date: 08 MAY 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE05362
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, IN, US, PK
To: STATE INFO COLOMBO
DACCA
ISLAMABAD
KATHMANDU
BOMBAY
CALCUTTA
MADRAS

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